

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/CCT:JTBROWNE:IJG

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158225

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF COL. MORGAN

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICER DISCUSSED MORGAN ABDUCTION WITH PAUL JUREIDINI, AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH AND EXPERT ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION. HE SUGGESTED EMBASSY CONTACT SOUHAIL WAMOUT, A LEBANESE JOURNALIST WHO IS FRIENDLY WITH ZUHAYR MUHSIN, AND NABIL KHOURY, EDITOR OF AL-HAWADESS, WHO IS FRIENDLY WITH YASIR ARAFAT. WE HAVE NO FEEL FOR WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL AND WISE TO MAKE THESE CONTACTS, BUT PASS THEM ALONG FOR EMBASSY'S INFO AND FOR WHAT THEY MAY BE WORTH.

2. JUREIDINI AND OTHERS HERE RECALL AIRPORT CIRCLE AS BEING PROTECTED BY LEBANESE MILITARY. WAS THIS THE CASE ON NIGHT OF ABDUCTION? HAS TAXI DRIVER BEEN INTERVIEWED TO EMBASSY'S SATISFACTION RE EXACT LOCATION OF ABDUCTION? APPRECIATE NAME AND RELIGION OF DRIVER, INCLUDING ANY KNOWN BACKGROUND OR AFFILIATION WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS. SISCO
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